

OVERVIEW OF THE HAWAII QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM

The HQAS offers qualified sign language interpreters who do not hold national certification an opportunity to obtain credentials valid within and recognized by the State of Hawaii.

The system establishes interpreting and transliterating standards at various skill levels.



The system consists of a written ethics test and a two part interpreting/transliterating performance test. Materials, processes and training protocols were drawn from the Kansas Quality Assurance Screening which has been shown to be a valid and reliable testing instrument.

The HQAS is administered using local interpreter evaluators and transliterators to ensure that test results accurately reflect the candidates' ability to interpret within our local community.

FUNCTIONAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE HQAS INTERPRETER- TRANSLITERATOR LEVELS:

Level V is a master level interpreter-transliterator who attains a score of at least 90 on the advanced performance test. This interpreter can function expressively and receptively in a majority of situations. A person holding a Level V credential should be pursuing national certification. While no restrictions are indicated, this interpreter demonstrates professional judgement in accepting assignments.
(Expires 5 years after the date of issue.)

Level IV is an accomplished interpreter-transliterator who attains a score of at least 80 on the advanced performance test. This interpreter can function expressively and receptively in most complex and technical situations. A Level IV interpreter may accept assignments for one-on-one and group sessions, as well as workshops and platform assignments. This interpreter is qualified for most medical and dental appointments, and limited legal interpreting including client/lawyer meetings, and traffic or small claims court.

A Level IV interpreter should be pursuing continuing professional education or national certification. A Level IV interpreter should avoid critical medical situations, criminal court and civil court jury trials.

(Expires 5 years after the date of issue.)

Level III is an intermediate level interpreter-transliterator who attains a minimum score of 85 on the entry-level performance test. Level III is the lowest level receiving a credential as a qualified interpreter. This interpreter may accept assignments for many group sessions and workshops and most one-

on-one situations. A Level III interpreter should be actively involved in professional development efforts.

An interpreter holding a Level III credential should not accept assignments for legal, mental health, or critical medical situations.
(Expires 2 years after the date of issue.)

Level II is an entry level communication assistant who attains a score of at least of 70 on the entry-level performance test. The Level II communication assistant will be able to interpret during orientation sessions and basic tutoring sessions. A Level II communication assistant may accept assignments where communication can be interpreted consecutively in one on one situations, limited group sessions and workshops; and may accept limited platform assignments when accompanied and supervised by a qualified mentor.

A person holding a Level II credential should not accept assignments for legal, mental health, medical, employment interviews or critical situations of any nature.

(Expires 2 years after the date of issue.)

Level I is a beginner level candidate who attains a score of at least 50 on the entry-level performance test. A Level I candidate is not considered qualified for professional assignments. This candidate may provide limited interpreting in low risk situations as an unpaid apprentice when accompanied by a qualified mentor. . Further professional development is required prior to reevaluation.

(No credential is issued.)

TEST PROCESS:

A primary goal of the HQAS is to increase the number of certified and credentialed interpreters available to consumers and agencies in Hawaii.

The HQAS includes a pre-test workshop to help candidates prepare for the performance test environment. This workshop is offered the day before performance tests are administered. All candidates are encouraged to participate in the pre-test workshop.

After the workshop and prior to the performance test, candidates are required to pass a written ethics test consisting of 50 questions.

The performance test is conducted on video tape in two parts on two levels. Prior to testing, candidates select either the I-III (entry-level) or the IV-V (advanced) test. Each test is divided into two parts: interpreting and transliterating. Each part of performance test includes sign-to-voice, voice-to-sign, and interactive sections.

Performance tests are scored by a team of trained evaluators including master level interpreters and Deaf individuals fluent in American Sign Language and sign-coded English.

Results are returned to candidates in 6-8 weeks and include constructive feedback and suggestions from each of the evaluators.



HQAS Info 2001.12

HQAS INTERPRETER CODE OF ETHICS

- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator safeguards the confidentiality of all assignment-related information.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator shall be dedicated to providing competent interpreting services in a manner befitting a professional.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator conveys the content and affect of the communication transmitted using the language most easily understood by the persons involved in the communication/transaction.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator uses discretion in accepting assignments based upon language competency and the capacity to maintain impartiality with regard to the setting and/or consumers involved.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator should not counsel nor interject personal opinion, but may exercise professional judgement in assessing whether or not communication is being understood and may also inform the consumers involved of available resources when and where it is appropriate.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator should pursue further knowledge and maintain competency in interpreting/translitterating skills.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator should pursue compensation for services in a professional and reasonable manner.
- ✓ The interpreter/transliterator will strive to maintain the highest professional standards in compliance with the Code of Ethics.

Adopted by the
Disability and Communication Access Board
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HAWAII QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM



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